



Communicator

January 2013

RFI: Practical Examples

Page 8

Field Day 2012 Video Links

Page 3

Features

Intro to Digital Modes

Radio-Active

Anton James VE7SSD

News

Plus

President's Report

January Calendar

SEPARS Report

and More!



The Monthly Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club



The Communicator



**SURREY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

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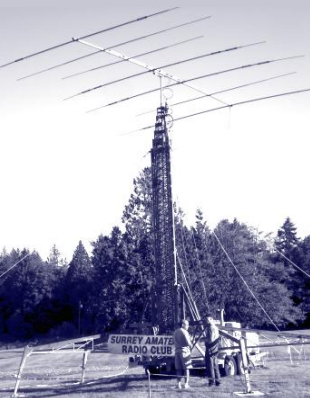
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VIA THE WEB
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The SARC Communicator is published monthly for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.



Annual Christmas Party ~~Monthly Meeting Minutes~~

Forty five SARC members and guests filled the upper room at the ABC Family Restaurant in South Surrey on Dec. 15th on the occasion of SARC's annual Christmas party. Master of Ceremonies for the event was our Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV who worked through the agenda and kept everything on track. After a social hour and before the festivities were formally underway, Director Kelvin VA7KPH started things off by introducing the Club Executive and guests, which included Andy Lo (with wife Mary) of Surrey Fire Services and Marvin Hunt (with wife Ruth) representing Surrey Council.

Over the next hour attendees enjoyed a sumptuous buffet lunch consisting of baked ham, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables and salads followed by dessert of assorted pies. Following lunch, John VA7XB presented the "SARC Year in Review" highlighting the Fox Hunt, the Langley Good Times Cruise-in and raffle, the repeater installation at Concord tower, the op-

erator training program and Field Day. Two entertaining videos of Field Day came next, prepared remotely in Palm Springs by Director John Schouten VE7TI, and showing both the humorous and serious sides of this competitive event. Marvin Hunt, an honorary member of SARC and our champion at City Hall, expressed words of appreciation of the City of Surrey for the volunteers in SARC and SEPAR who give willingly of their time and dedication. We have Marvin to thank for our successful Surrey Community grant (which, by the way, has recently been approved to help defray 2013 Field Day expenses). Marvin offered his support to finding a permanent home for SARC and SEPAR, now that Search and Rescue has moved into the old Sullivan Station Heritage Railway building.

Next, the group was treated to a surprise visit from "Elmer" (Jinty Reid VA7JMR) from the Ozarks, who provided some advice on "how to raise an antenner" with the help of his dog

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2012-2013

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT

Brett Garrett VE7GM

SECRETARY

Vacant

TREASURER

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORS

Kelvin Hall VA7KPH
(SEPARS)

John Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor
& Net Manager)

George Merchant
VE7QH (Repeaters)

Bill Little VA7ZBL
(Membership)

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV

IN THIS ISSUE

click on the links below

Intro to Digital Modes
January Presentation

Radio-Active
Anton James VE7SSD

Plus
RFI: Real World Examples
SEPAR Report
QRM
News You Can Lose
January SARC Calendar
President's Report

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1 st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7OFH Standby	Drew VA7DRW
2 nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Standby	Jinty VA7JMR
3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Anton VE7SSD
4 th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX Standby	John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Bill VE7XS
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager ve7ti @ separs.net		

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, (optional Tone Squelch 110.9) also accessible on IRLP node 1980 and Echo-link node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 Coming soon, a repeater at 224.000MHz (-1.6MHz).

"Yep". Bill Gipps VE7XS introduced the annual achievement awards, presented by Bill Little VA7ZBL, George Merchant VE7QH and Brett Garrett VE7GM. Brett went on to outline some thoughts for Field Day planning.

While all were complimentary about the buffet lunch and the general atmosphere, on the negative side we received comments that the poor acoustics at this venue along with excessive noise from the cash register area detracted from the experience. The steep stairs are also a problem for some of our members and guests. As a result, Jinty VA7JMR and Dennis VE7DGJ have volunteered to investigate alternative venues for next year, with the hope that these annoyances can be eliminated.

John VA7XB



The draw for door prizes over the next 30 minutes by Jinty Reid VA7JMR and Joyce Robertson VA7JCE provided almost everyone present a gift of some kind from the large array of offerings.



The grand finale was the draw - available only to licensed hams - for the Baofeng handheld radio, done in reverse fashion with the last ticket drawn the winner. The last ticket out was held by John VA7XB who declined to accept, leading to another draw won this time by Kelvin VA7KPH who also declined. The third and final draw was won by Rick Law VE7GMO who generously gave away the radio to a new ham, Sean Chen VA7CHX (see cover). All went away happy. Many thanks to Jinty VA7JMR and Joyce VA7JCE for organizing a great party and to all those who donated door prizes.



Field Day 2012 Videos

<http://separ.shutterfly.com/pictures>

DOWN THE LOG...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs local at the Emergency Management BC PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 local
ABC Country Restaurant at
600 - 7380 King George Blvd.
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

Announcements & News

SEPARS Monthly Workshop
Third Thursday, 1900-2130 local
Rm. 214, 13569 - 76th Avenue,
Surrey.

SEPARS Training

Fourth Saturday, 0830 local,
Firehall #1, 88 & 132nd Street,
Surrey

On the Web

ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter

[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

Photos

[Web Albums](#)

Next Meeting Beginners Digital Modes

At the next meeting on January 9th, John MacFarlane will introduce the audience to the digital modes. These have become very popular in recent years owing to the advent of computer soundcards which can process digital signals very efficiently. We'll examine a couple of the more common digital modes, though there are many others out there.

PSK-31

Phase-shift keying or PSK is a method where by characters are entered via keyboard and transmitted by radio. The process is very efficient, requiring very little power and being very efficient on bandwidth, consuming only about 30 Hz.

A PSK31 operator typically uses a single sideband transceiver connected to the sound card of a PC running PSK31 software. When the operator enters a message for transmission, the software produces an audio tone which sounds, to the human ear, like a continuous whistle with a slight warble. This is then fed through either a microphone jack or an auxiliary connection into the transceiver, where it is transmitted.

From the perspective of the transmitter, this amounts to little more than somebody whistling into the microphone. However, the software rapidly shifts the phase of the audio signal between two states (hence the name "phase-shift keying"), forming the character codes. These phase shifts serve the same function as the two tones used in traditional RTTY and similar systems.

To decode PSK31, the received audio whistle from the transceiver's headphone output is fed into the sound card's audio input, and the software decodes it. The software also includes a user interface on the PC, which is used to display the decoded text and manage the software configuration.

The use of PSK31 does not require exclusive use of a dedicated computer. When it is not running the PSK31 program, the station computer can still be used for normal utilities. Because PSK31 was developed for use through a computer's sound card, many programs have since been created to use the same technology for other modes, such as RTTY, [Hellschreiber](#), [Olivia MFSK](#) etc. So,

once it has been set up to run PSK31, a computer can be used to explore a variety of digital modes.

Aside from a standard radio transceiver, very little equipment is required to use PSK31. Normally, an older PC and a few cables will suffice and many PSK31 software applications are free. Many operators now use a commercially available interface/modem device (or "nomic") between their computers and radios. These devices incorporate the necessary impedance matching and sound level adjustment to permit the sound card output to be injected into the microphone input, the radio's audio output to be sent to the sound card input, and also handle the radio's transmit-receive switching. Recently introduced interfaces also incorporate their own sound card, and can therefore be powered and run from the PC via a single USB connection.

RTTY

Radioteletype (RTTY) is a telecommunications system consisting originally of two or more electromechanical teleprinters in different locations, later superseded by personal computers (PCs) running software to emulate teleprinters, connected by radio rather than a wired link. Radioteletype evolved from earlier landline teleprinter operations that began in the mid-1800s. The US Navy Department successfully tested printing telegraphy between an airplane and ground radio station in 1922. Later that year, the Radio Corporation of America successfully tested printing telegraphy via their Chatham, Massachusetts, radio station to the R.M.S. Majestic. Commercial RTTY systems were in active service between San Francisco and Honolulu as early as April 1932 and between San Francisco and New York City by 1934. The US military used radioteletype in the 1930s and expanded this usage during World War II. From the 1980s, teleprinters were replaced by computers running teleprinter emulation software.

RTTY is very popular among contesters and there are several contests dedicated to the digital modes.

If you want to become more familiar with what these modes sound like, visit the Digital Mode samples website at URL: <http://www.kb9ukd.com/digital/>

John MacFarlane VE7AXU will be the featured speaker at SARC's January 9th meeting, on the topic of digital modes using Ham Radio Deluxe and FLdigi software.



Radio-Active Jinty Reid VA7JMR

Anton James VE7SSD



Anton was born in 1956 in Trinidad where he has spent much of his life. He is the 4th child of 5 children, 3 boys and 2 girls. His father was always interested in ham radio and encouraged his children to take up the hobby, however, only Anton and an older brother pursued

has served as President, Secretary and Treasurer. His most enjoyable ham radio events are; IRLP, Field Day and Fox Hunting of which he is in charge each year. In the year 2000 he met Brenda and her cat called "Kitty" (who since has sadly passed away) and the 3 became a family. Brenda is Anton's dental and office assistant in his dental practice. For 4 years when SARC membership was smaller the couple put on the SARC annual Christmas Party.



the interest and later obtained their ham radio license. There is also an uncle in Trinidad who is a ham radio operator.

In 1981 at the age of 23 Anton passed his ham radio course and became a licensed radio operator with the call sign of 9Y4EE. His first radio was a Yaesu FT101 tube radio and his first contact after he had a license was to Cuba. Anton excelled in the Sciences which led him to pursue a career in dentistry. He went to England at the age of 18 where he received his degree in dentistry at the University of Birmingham in 1979. After this he returned to Trinidad and stayed there until 1989 when he emigrated to Labrador, Canada. The climate and culture there was a challenging adjustment. Having his Trinidadian ham radio license recognized in Canada was problematic so Anton, undaunted, took his ham radio exam again and got his license for the second time. In Labrador he took up ice fishing, snowmobiling and curling brrh! Anton was happy when he was able to contact his mother, then living in Richmond BC, by phone patch which allowed him to have free calling.

In 1990 at the age of 34 years of age Anton moved to Richmond BC to be closer to his mother. In 1994 he moved to Delta and again in 1998 to Surrey where he joined SARC. His new call sign became VE7SSD ("for Sweet Sugar Daddy") His mentor in learning about Field Day was Victor Medway, now deceased, and later Anton took over the role of organizing that event. During his time in SARC he

In 2007 Anton was awarded the Inaugural Amateur Radio Operator of the Year Award by SARC. Anton's present radio is an ICOM 2100. He also has an HF Yaesu 857 which sadly is still in the box and he would dearly love to get it set up and running. Besides ham radio, Anton enjoys sailing and owned a Fireball vessel in Trinidad which became his "weekend wife". Anton states that he is looking for opportunities to do more sailing here in the lower mainland and anyone needing a crew member please call him, hint hint !! Another activity that he is heavily involved in is a real estate investing club called W.I.N (Wealthy Investor Network).

Finally, Anton is an avid educator ; in dentistry, with his patients, and W.I.N. He went on a Dental Volunteer Mission to the Philippines for 2 weeks in March 2010 where he performed dental surgery, removing 1,500 teeth ouch ! He is planning on another dental mission, this time to Cambodia. He and Brenda are also planning on taking a Mediterranean cruise in 2013.

Anton is a stickler for detail and likes things done right. He is a hard worker, likes to mentor others but prefers to be a "backroom" person and not to be in the limelight. His partner Brenda states that he is young at heart and often "goofy". Thank you Anton for the work that you do in SARC.



Tech Talk

Washing Line—Wire Reel Antenna

I found these washing lines in a local DIY store, but they are also available on e-bay. You can easily open them by holding the reel in the palm of one hand with the winding spool facing upwards. Grip the plastic surround around the reel with the other hand and rotate it anticlockwise to unscrew the two halves.

Replace the washing line with some thin wire. With care, I can get about 33m / 100ft of 0.7mm diameter wire on a single spool.



Keep the wire under tension by running it through your fingers when winding the wire back in. This makes it spool more evenly. An alligator clip on the end of the wire makes it useful as either an antenna or counterpoise.

You can tune it by winding the wire in and out, and then locking it off by wrapping the wire around the tab on the spool. Two or more of these are very useful for portable operation.

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What's Coming in 2012

- January - an introduction to the digital modes by John Macfarlane VE7AXU - especially for beginners - how to get started, popular modes and software options available
- February - a slide-illustrated Alaska DXpedition talk by Heinz Buhrig VA7AQ, followed by an in-house swap meet - bring stuff you no longer need and sell or exchange it for new stuff
- March - a tutorial on short and "stealth" antennas for the real-estate challenged ham, presented by John White VA7JW

- April - an introduction to HF propagation prediction using free software by Jim Smith VE7FO
- May - our annual Foxhunt plus (at the general meeting) preparations for Field Day and how you can do your part to increase our 2013 FD score by another 50%
- June - our AGM and final countdown to Field Day, which is on the weekend of June 22/23

If we can work in a talk sometime during the Spring by Bill Gipps VE7XS on his Lesotho, Africa DXpedition, we will do so.

Also planned is a guided tour of SARC's new repeater installation located on the roof of a 36-story hi-rise - the view is great!.

Radio Frequency Interference: A Practical Example Of The Effect

At the suggestion of Jim Smith VE7FO, I recently joined an RFI reflector at <http://lists.contesting.com/>. Why? Because I hoped to find some answers to a frustrating Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) problem that I was experiencing. I had installed in my bathroom an electrically heated floor and thermostat c/w built-in ground fault interrupter (GFI). However, whenever I transmitted, even briefly, on 15m or 10m the GFI would trip and the power would go off. The first time this happened, the thermostat failed to work again even after resetting the GFI. First call was to the supplier (NuHeat) of the "Solo" thermostat. Their customer support team knew nothing about RFI and I had to explain that it was likely a problem with the thermostat and not a problem with my radio transmissions. Without argument, they replaced the thermostat with a new one (#2). Not wanting to take further chances with ruining another thermostat, I decided to install some RF protective devices, as I assumed that the 220 v house wiring was picking up RF and passing it through to the thermostat.

While RF interference is not a new problem, it is most commonly experienced with telephones and audio devices. However, nowadays the large variety of RF susceptible electronic devices in our houses has greatly increased the likelihood of problems. The number of devices emitting RF has also increased accordingly. Plasma TVs, computer monitors, electric fences, touch turn-on lamps, halogen lights, and wall-wart switching power supplies are just some of the items that are reputed to send out wide-spectrum RF, but there are many others. What to do in this case?

First, I applied the standard remedy: I clamped split ferrite cores around the power cable near the thermostat. That appeared to have no effect, however this time the thermostat could be reset and made

functional, which was progress of a sort. Then I ordered an RFI kit from Palomar and when it arrived I added ferrite beads to the individual power leads. No



Typical RFI devices including split (snap-on) ferrite cores, ferrite beads, toroids and capacitors. RFI kits are available from Palomar.

improvement. Next I connected .01 uF disc ceramic capacitors between the hot leads and ground. Also NuHeat had provided me with a "snubber" - a capacitor with a resistor in series - which I connected across the power leads. However, the problem persisted. Finally after many emails and telephone back and forth, NuHeat put me in touch with Honeywell, the manufacturer of the thermostat. Honeywell responded very quickly first asking me some questions about my power level, frequencies, SWR etc that might suggest a transmitter problem. After they were satisfied with the answers, Honeywell

couriered another thermostat (#3) to me for trial. No cigar. When I reported this failure, they promptly sent me yet another thermostat (#4) called "Harmony". This is a more expensive device of (apparently)



different design. It worked! One by one, I removed the RF chokes and capacitors until they were all gone. After several days of testing at different frequencies, there has been no effect on the thermostat/GFI, so I mounted it permanently and thanked Honeywell for their efficient service.

Lesson: if you have an RFI issue, try the standard remedies but when they fail to solve the problem, get the manufacturer on board with device replacement in mind, as with modern radios it is typically not the radio transmissions that are at fault. This approach may not work with some of the off-shore manufacturers, so bear this in mind when purchasing electronic devices - they may not care about their reputation and customer service the way Honeywell does. ARRL publishes several good RFI guides as well as the Radio Amateurs Handbook and more information can be found on the Internet. For unusual problems that defy the conventional solutions, the RFI reflector website mentioned above is another excellent source of expert advice.

John VA7XB

Now enjoying toasty toes in his remodeled bathroom.

More Tech Talk: Some Stories Posted On The RFI Contesting Reflector

I may have posted this here once before, but just in case... In another recent post, someone bemoaned how it seems impossible to do anything to encourage people to get rid of their problematic (from an RFI standpoint) equipment. I have, exactly **once,** been able to pull off such a feat off without the owner's knowledge. Here's the story:

About 20 years ago, when I lived in Colorado, I had a ne'er-do-well neighbor behind me by the name of Bobby. This was a bit of a jerk and had complained about my radio activities in many different ways having nothing to do with radio. But, once he came over to my place with some "muscle" in tow (his brother-in-law, who was actually named Bubba) to tell me how much RFI trouble I was causing. I happily showed him and Bubba the station, demonstrated that I didn't bother any of my stuff, handed 'em an FCC RFI booklet, and sent 'em away somewhat confused. Bubba was pretty reasonable and told my neighbor, Bobby, that everything seemed OK at my house, so...? I never heard much more from Bobby, though I did get a phone call or two, always when I **wasn't** on the air.

Then Bobby got a touch lamp in his second-floor living room, which was easily visible from my operating position. That touch lamp was a pretty sensitive receiver and even at 100W, it went completely nuts on 20 m. I use CW almost exclusively, but SSB did it in, too. For a long time, he couldn't figure it out, but one day while I was finishing up catching some DXpedition, I saw him out on his balcony looking carefully over at my house. I ducked

down out of sight and programmed my keyer to send "RFI TEST DE N5OP" continuously at 20 second intervals. I then went out and mowed my lawn. He watched me mowing my lawn while his touch lamp went nuts and finally went back inside and unplugged it. He certainly couldn't accuse me of the problem because I was outside, mowing the lawn!

But that's not the end: I had a good friend over one night who had just passed his Tech. I saw my antagonist in his living room, watching his TV, with his beloved touch-lamp on. We grabbed some binoculars and I said "Watch this." Keeping all lights off, I programmed my keyer with "RFI TEST DE N5OP" and fired up my TS-930S. As if by magic, his touch lamp began its routine. He got out of his chair and looked at my house. Dark as a tomb. He readjusted the lamp and just as he sat down, it started again. He did this trick several times and every time, as if on cue, it went nuts again right about when he sat down. By this time my friend was almost unable to breathe due to his laughter. But then came the "piece de resistance:" the lamp started its routine again and this time the guy leaped out of his chair, grabbed the lamp and, shaking it as if he were choking it, ripped it out of the wall socket and **threw** it down a hallway. Needless to say, that put the poor touch lamp out of its misery and solved my RFI problem.

My friend complained for some days afterward that his sides hurt from so much laughing. Mine did, too.

~Kim N5OP



Another RFI Story...

Sounds like my experience in a town house apartment... the neighbors put a stereo against the common wall and liked to turn it up too loud. So when it got louder than I liked I went and started sending dits on the wire loop I had around the inside of the front wall right next to the stereo, mostly I just used it for listening from the apartment and would operate mobile. The louder the stereo was the faster the dits were set until they turned it down, then they stopped. A couple times and they must have been convinced they had a problem with the amp or speakers above a certain volume.

~David K1TTT

The SARC Calendar ...places to be in Surrey for Amateur Radio in the month ahead

January 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 	31	1 	2 SARC Exec Meeting	3	4 Weekly SARC Breakfast 8:00 ABC Restaurant 74th & King George Blvd.	5 CONTEST: ARRL RTTY Roundup
6 CONTEST: ARRL RTTY Roundup	7	8 SEPAR NET 7:30 SARC NET 8:00	9 SARC Monthly Meeting	10	11 Weekly SARC Breakfast 8:00	12 CONTEST: NA QSO Party CW
13 CONTEST: NA QSO Party CW	14	15 SEPAR NET 7:30 SARC NET 8:00	16	17	18 Weekly SARC Breakfast 8:00	19 NA QSO Party SSB
20 NA QSO Party SSB	21	22 SEPAR NET 7:30 SARC NET 8:00	23 SARC Exec Meeting	24	25 Weekly SARC Breakfast 8:00	26 CONTEST: BARTG RTTY Sprint
27 CONTEST: BARTG RTTY Sprint	28	29	30	31	28	29
For details on all SARC events, go to ve7sar.net For details on all SEPARS events, go to separ.shutterfly.com/calendar						

 Contest Details: <http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

'Net' Working: Internet Resources For Hams

HRDlog.net

What is it?

HRDlog.net is an independent online logbook, free for all Amateur Radio Operators. First launched in December 2008 as the online logbook of Ham Radio Deluxe, it is now integrated with many other logbook programs.

- Share own logbook over the net and back up your logbook off your PC.
- Members can restore their logbook, useful after a PC crash.
- Real time synchronization with Ham Radio Deluxe or on-request logbook importation using a standard ADIF file.
- Members can display their last QSO and on-air status on their own website.
- Members can allow searches of their QSO on their own website.
- Members can display their last QSO and on-air status on their own page on QRZ.com.
- View in real time the current ham activity, the last QSO over the world map, and an animation of the last 24 hours.
- Members can view, edit, delete, filter QSOs by Country, Zone, Band, Mode.
- Members can view their QSOs over the world map.
- Members can view their QSO statistics, numerate their QSO by Country, Mode, or Band.
- Members can create a personal web page.
- Members can exchange electronic QSLs.
- Members can set own privacy level (full shared logbook, partial shared, no shared).
- Members can received event based notification via e-mail or SMS.
- Facebook integration: show logbooks, your on-air status, your QSL collection.

Current DXpeditions, next contest calendar, point of interest, public chat, forum, private message exchange, webcam support, friend list, shared resources, weekly top user election, rates and so on.

Print logbook

This function allows to print your own logbook. It requires just to select the year from which the print has to start and you will get your logbook in PDF format, easily loadable or printable. It is reachable from Login -> Print -> Logbook

Social networks

HRDlog allows the integration with Facebook (Login -> Modify profile -> Facebook) In addition, you can follow the news also on the page

<http://www.facebook.com/HRDLOGnet> or join the group "HRDLOG.net official user group".

The integration with Twitter (Login -> Modify profile -> Twitter) has been improved: now it is possible to postpone an #hashtag on your own tweet sent to the social network and new buttons have been added in order to make possible to Follow [@HRDLOGnet](https://twitter.com/HRDLOGnet), Tweet on @HRDLOGnet or send a tweet.

Section for QSL Manager

A new section of the web site was created completely dedicated to QSL Managers; this section is reachable through Login -> QSL Manager -> Manage.

The QSL Managers can register their customers, manage the questions and the sending of QSL, save the cost of their activities, have annual reports; the whole is integrated with the logbook part of HRDLOG.net and with the printings of HRDLabel. This function has not to be confused with the setting of your own QSL Manager, operation which has to be done through Login -> Modify Profile -> User Data.

Page List DXCC

We remind you that through the page "List DXCC" (Login -> List DXCC) is possible to visualize the list of the contacted countries and of the confirmed ones.

After this updating, it is also possible to verify the correspondence between the callsign and the assigned country (Check DXCC) and modify the attribution in case of error.

Logbook import from a HTTP server

This function, suitable for DXpedition or expert users, allows to import your own logbook taking it from a web

(Continued on page 11)



News You Can Lose

Vadrum Speaks Morse Code

In this video Italian drummer **Andrea Vadrucci** (Vadrum) drums out the Morse code alphabet.

The fastest way to learn a new language? Obviously by playing it! What's up everyone, here's the fascinating Morse Code alphabet as you've never heard before, arranged and played by Vadrum.

Watch Vadrum Speaks Morse Code (Drum Video)
Website: <http://www.vadrum.com> and video URL:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=6XHWygN9CKM

Unusual Radio Mast Video

This unusual video, believed to originate from the Ukraine, shows that the base of a high-power transmitter mast can be a hazardous place.

Watch 'Listening to the radio with a blade of grass'

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=6Scm-tKTHls

Fun with a few 9V batteries... (244 of them)

This video shows what can be done with 244 nine volt batteries. The YouTube description reads: Just some goofing around with a bunch of batteries.

Watch Fun with a few 9V batteries (244 of them) at:
<http://thecustomgeek.com/2011/09/13/fun-with-a-few-9v-batteries-244-of-them>

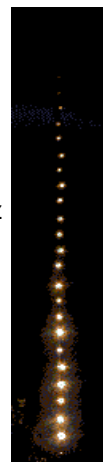
Tuning Up Your Christmas Lights

This image from the web shows changes in current distribution along a 5m tall base fed vertical, consisting of a string of Christmas lights with approx. 40 bulbs connected as four parallel strings of ten and fed with an auto tuner at the base.

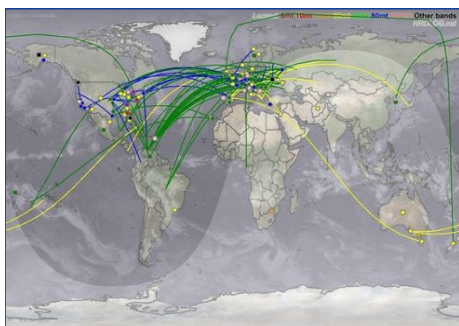
The frequency in use increases gradually from 7MHz (most current at base) up to 50MHz (two current peaks with a null in the middle).

The lights are brighter where the antenna current is greater.

We wonder if contacts with the North Pole are especially good using this set-up?



(Continued from page 10)



HRDlog.net features a 'live' view of current QSOs

server. You can store your logbook in ADIF format on your own web server, indicate the file address and it will be automatically imported every day. In this version, two ways of charging are provided: "Skip Duplicate QSO" by which the QSO already present on HRDLOG.net are ignored and "Update duplicate QSO" where the QSO present are updated. The settings are reachable through Login -> Import Logbook -> ADIF Remote Logbook

New Gadget

A new gadget is available that can be installed on your own PC which allows you to visualize in real time all the names "on air" useful to add a new entity DXCC to your own logbook. The gadget analyzes the data of the logbook, of the "on air", of the clusters and it matches them with the estimations done on the real propagation. This gadget, as the other ones, is downloadable at http://www.iw1qlh.net/index.php/download/win_ham/HRDLOG.net/

Integrations

The integration with other applications is still on going. The integration with Log4OM, Winlog32 and youLOG are already added or still testing. HRDLabel version 6 is now able to print the QSL taking the data directly from HRDLOG.net and from EnzoLog.

Give it a look, you'll be amazed at all the features.



SEPAR Report Kelvin Hall VA7KPH



SEPAR: 2012 in Review and 2013 Challenges

During the 2012 year SEPAR made a number of changes in the format of its operations.

Probably the most notable to the general ham radio community was the change to the format of the Tuesday Night Net. The Net transformed to the format of the BC/Yukon Traffic Net for emergency radio communication purposes. Emergency radio communications for the City of Surrey, Surrey Fire Services is the basic mandate of SEPAR. We need to be well trained and capable of responding to any emergency in an effective and efficient manner. The new Net format will allow SEPAR to meet this requirement.

Training requirements were modified to meet emergency response requirements. Each SEPAR member is now required to meet a level of training before being taking on responsibilities of radio communication duties. Extensive training was provided to all members for the new Tuesday night Net before they were assigned their respective nights. Training on the use of the ARRL messaging has been expanded to become a part of the Tuesday Net. This is a large part of how SEPAR will need to communicate in an emergency event.

Training in Grab & Go (G&G) kit set-up, radio operations and take down was on the training list for a number of months. Field Day in June was one of the effective training sessions for the deployment of the G&G kits as well as assembly of the two SARC mobile towers and the large SARC tent. SEPAR members demonstrated their communication skills during that weekend to help SARC, SEPAR and LARA achieve the status of 1st in BC and 2nd in Canada.

The Emergency Social Services (ESS) and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) exercises tested the training of SEPAR members and provided an opportunity to work with other City of Surrey emergency response colleagues. These are annual events that will test the skills of all of the emergency responders and their ability to work together.

Interfacing with the public and demonstrating radio communication skills was accomplished through workshops at community centre events. Most of these events are focused on the younger people and the parents that

accompanied them. Good feedback was received from all of the sponsors of the events.

Two regular events, Canada Day and CN Rail Family Days, allowed SEPAR to demonstrate their radio communication skills and interface with the public. Numerous questions about the radios and their effectiveness in an emergency were discussed and people left with the knowledge that there is something out there as a back-up in an emergency.

The past year had its challenges for SEPAR members and they met the challenges head-on and did well through the transition.

For 2013 SEPAR will take on more formal training sessions in the use of the radios in the G&G kits and Fire Hall #1 radio room. Training will be provided in Radio Room positions, duties and the interface with the EOC. On-going will be the ICS 100 and 200 courses to assist with the understanding of how SEPAR fits into the greater emergency response role. Formal training will continue in the new year to enable us to be an effective, efficient and professional part of the City of Surrey's Emergency Program.

We need to remember that we do this training because there is always the real possibility that a major event will occur. It is not a matter of IF a major disaster will occur but WHEN.

To all SEPAR members and all SARC members - have a Happy and Safe New Year and may it be prosperous.

73

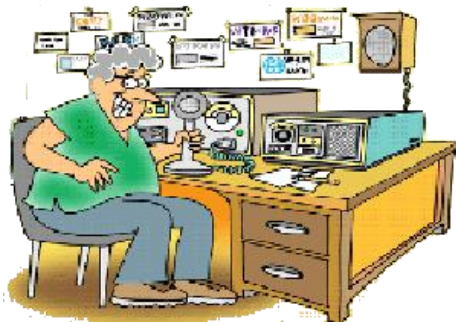
Kelvin Hall
SEPAR Coordinator

SEPAR Meetings

Third Thursday of each month starting at 1900 hrs

Fourth Saturday of each month starting at 0900 hrs

Location and event schedule can be found at separ.shutterfly.com — click on the calendar tab



QRM ...from the Editor's shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
Something to sell or something you are looking for?
Email it to ve7ti@separs.net for inclusion in this column.*

Wanted

Rob VE7CZV still needs an auto-tuner for his HF rig, specifically for 80m.

If you have or know of one that is available at a good price, please contact Rob via robgil@telus.net

Surrey Field Day Grant

The City of Surrey has finalized allocations from the 2013 City Grants budget and has informed SARC that the Council has approved a grant of \$825 towards our 2013 Field Day. This represents a significant increase over the \$500 awarded in 2012. We will put it to good use in making 2013 the best Field Day ever.

You've read about the party on pages 2 and 3. Here are a few more photos, courtesy of Hiu Yee.



CQ... CQ... CQ

Bill Little VA7ZBL is asking for help over the winter as a CW wannabee. He is looking for a paddle at reasonable cost.

If you have or know of one that is available at a fair price, please contact Bill via mojocrew@telus.net





RAC News Radio Amateurs of Canada

Radio Amateurs of Canada is the national voice for Amateur Radio in Canada. Our efforts not only promote the Amateur Radio Service but protect it from regulatory interference that may lead to less capability to provide emergency communications. Not already a RAC member? Why not join today at www.rac.ca and find out about the many benefits our members enjoy across the country and the world beyond.

RAC Bulletin 2012-072E - Regulations Amending the Contraventions Regulations 2012-12-22

There has been an announcement in the Canada Gazette as to changes in the Contraventions regulations concerning the enforcement of the Radiocommunication Regulations.

These changes will allow peace officers including Municipal, Provincial and RCMP police officers to issue tickets for certain offences under the Radio-communication Regulations.

The changes may be seen at:

<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2012/2012-11-21/html/sor-dors236-eng.html>

*Bill Gade, VE4WO
Regulatory Affairs*

The Details

Here are the sections affected by the changes outlined above.

- Person failing to operate a radio apparatus in the amateur radio service in accordance with the technical requirements issued by the Minister. \$250 fine;
- Person operating a radio apparatus in the amateur radio service communicating with a radio station that does not operate in the amateur radio service. \$100 fine;
- Person operating a radio apparatus in the amateur radio service engaging in communication that transmits music. \$100 fine;

- Person operating a radio apparatus in the amateur radio service engaging in communication that transmits programming from a broadcasting undertaking. \$100 fine;
- Person operating a radio apparatus in the amateur radio service engaging in communication that transmits radiocommunications in support of industrial, business or professional activities. \$250 fine;
- Person operating a radio apparatus in the amateur radio service demanding remuneration for transmitting or receiving a radiocommunication. \$250 fine;
- Person operating a radio apparatus in the amateur radio service accepting remuneration for transmitting or receiving a radiocommunication. \$250 fine.

Background

In 2000 and 2011, the Radiocommunication Regulations were amended (SOR/2000-78, SOR/2011-48) to exempt amateur radio apparatus and their operation from the licensing requirement by Industry Canada (they are now merely certified) and to respond to concerns expressed by the Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations, which concluded that provisions of the Radiocommunication Regulations were redundant to, or inconsistent with, the Radiocommunication Act, or inconsistent with the terms of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Description

Amendments made in 2000 removed the concept of “licensing” from the Radiocommunication Regulations. Since then, the existing short form descriptions found in the Contraventions Regulations no longer correspond to the exemption given under the Radiocommunication Regulations. The amendments remove the concept of “licensing” from the Contraventions Regulations to harmonize them with the Radiocommunications Regulations requirements. Thus, an interpretation of the word “licensed” in Schedule IX, Part II of the Contraventions Regulations that would limit activities such as communicating with radio apparatus in the amateur radio service, to persons or radio apparatus that

hold “radio licenses from Industry Canada” would be contrary to the intent of the new Regulations and could result in absurd consequence. Consequently, the better interpretation of “licensed” in this context includes stations or apparatus (or users) that hold a radio “authorization” or are otherwise “permitted or allowed” use by regulation.

The amendments to the *Contraventions Regulations* also harmonize the provisions to the changes made in 2011 to a number of sections in the *Radiocommunication Regulations*. Changes to the *Radiocommunication*

Regulations provisions were made on the recommendation of the Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations, which concluded that some provisions of the *Radiocommunication Regulations* were redundant to, or inconsistent with, the *Radiocommunication Act*, or inconsistent with the terms of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

These amendments do not create new offences. They add more clarity for both enforcement officers and users on the applicable provisions and offences.

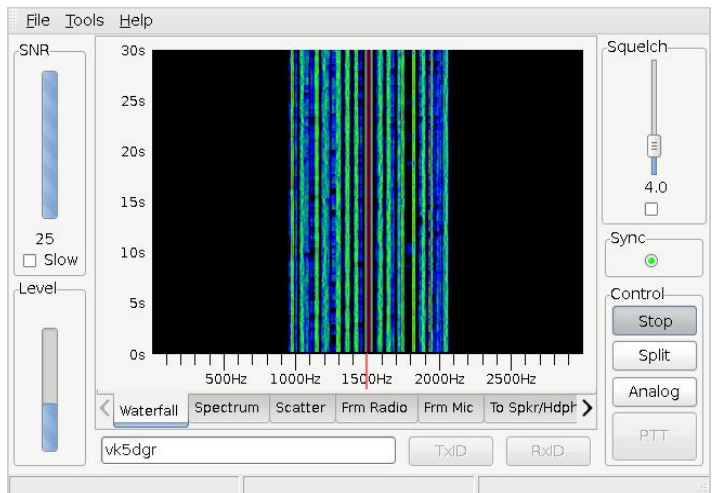
FreeDV

FreeDV is a GUI application for Windows and Linux that allows any SSB radio to be used for low bit rate digital voice.

Speech is compressed down to 1400 bit/s then modulated onto a 1100 Hz wide QPSK signal which is sent to the Mic input of a SSB radio. On receive, the signal is received by the SSB radio, then demodulated and decoded by FreeDV. FreeDV was built by an international team of Radio Amateurs working together on coding, design, user interface and testing. FreeDV is open source software, released under the GNU Public License version 2.1. The FDMDV modem and Codec 2 Speech codec used in FreeDV are also open source.

You can view a demonstration at URL:

<http://kb3zge.webs.com/apps/videos/videos/show/17471126-freedv-digital-voice-software-for-amateur-radio>



If you have not renewed your annual membership
this will be your
last issue of the Communicator

Don't delay, renew today by sending a cheque to:

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA
13935 80A Ave
Surrey, BC V3W 6P5

Fees are \$30 if you are not a RAC member.

RAC members (you must provide your membership number)
to qualify for a \$5 discount.



QRT John Brodie VA7XB

With the Communicator reaching members' in-boxes on New Year's Day, I want to share some thoughts about the coming year. On page 6 of this newsletter you will find a list of meetings scheduled for the next 6 months, but I am thinking of more personal radio-related goals that you might consider as your own "New Year's Resolutions". Here are 8 suggestions:

1. Build something. This is part of the ham radio tradition. Nowadays, things are easier to build, with the variety of kits available from the Internet and your local electronics retailer. For example, here's a worthwhile project : January 2013 QST has a nifty article titled "A Uniquely Tuned 2 meter Transmitter Hunting Loop". The project is a directional antenna of much smaller dimensions than the standard tape measure beam that we are all familiar with. If there is sufficient interest, we might consider this as a club project. If this project doesn't interest you, find another that does. Soldering is a skill that all hams should have. Many simple home-made antennas are described in the handbooks, magazines and on the Internet and work well - try building one.

2. Learn CW. A large variety of learning and skill-enhancing programs are out there on the Internet, mostly free. For example:

Teach4

<http://www.qsl.net/zl1an/Software/teach4software.html> or this one:

Morse Trainer

<http://www.g4fon.net/CW%20Trainer.htm> both recommended by John VE7AXU. If you already know Morse Code and simply wish to improve your skill, my personal favourite for simulating contest conditions is: Morse Runner:

<http://www.dxatlas.com/download.asp>.

3. Master a new technical skill: pick a subject that interests you and read up on it. How about antenna modeling, or propagation prediction, or impedance matching? Then give a talk to the club about what you have learned. You could even dig out your radio manual and read it from cover to cover, trying out everything that is described so that you master its complexities (you never know when you might need to program your radio on the fly, should disaster occur and you are called upon).

4. Help a ham in need: think about your fellow hams and who might need a helping hand (for example) to erect an antenna, or work through difficult software, install power poles etc. Possibly you could offer to give a lift to the next club meeting or breakfast get-together for one of our handicapped members.
5. Get someone interested in ham radio: bring him/her out to a club meeting and introduce him to the group. Direct him/her to some ham radio literature and show off your station. Offer to give a talk at your local Senior Citizens centre, scout hall or service club. Explain the benefits of ham radio if there is ever an emergency where power, telephone and Internet are not working.
6. Suggest a worthwhile project or event for your club and volunteer to organize it. Don't just leave it to the Executive to do all the thinking.
7. Pursue some new aspect of your hobby. If FM on VHF/UHF is all you've ever done, there is a world of interesting options open to you. Explore new bands or modes. If you're in an apartment or townhouse complex and have been unable to get on HF, think about the digital modes. With most modes, you only need simple equipment, 20 or 30 watts of power and a modest antenna. All exchanges are done on the keyboard using software that is mostly free. Come to SARC's January meeting to find out how easy it can be to get started on the digital modes. Or maybe contesting holds some interest for you. If so, let your Exec know that you want to join the ever-growing number of members who are involved in the operator training program.
8. Set an achievable goal and earn it: This could be Worked All States or DX Century Club. Maybe improve your score by X% in your favourite contest, or get your CW speed up to 20 WPM. Improve your Fox Hunting skills so that you can find at least 3 foxes instead of the usual one. Work 10 new countries on the lower HF bands. Find out how to get on Logbook of the World and do it.
9. Finally I wish all members and their families a warm Merry Christmas and thank the Executive for their dedication and hard work during the past year!

~ John VA7XB